



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Special Budget Meeting

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Ayes: Bonsall, Davis, Hanley, Hill, Mayer, Smith, Stonehouse

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements.

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please state your name and physical address when making public comments.

There were no public comments at this point.

1. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Evan Bonsall moved to Approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

1.a. Approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 regular Commission meeting.

New Business

2. Budget Overview

City Finance Director Mary Schlicht provided a summary of the various funds in the City's budget, including funds for streets, debt service, Lakeview Arena, marinas, technology services and motor vehicle equipment. Various City department heads joined in during this overview to highlight specific projects or issues in their departments.

Commissioners asked several questions, and ensuing discussion focused on road funding mechanisms, the schedule for street projects, updates on the JCI project, utility rates and the impact debt service payments have on the City budget.

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please state your name and physical address when making public comments.

Margaret Brumm mentioned the concept of a local cigarette tax and then said there is a big job to do to involve the community in this conversation. She said staff has indicated there have been no property tax increases in several years and that the concept should be explained, as some residents feel their taxes have increased.

Comments from the Commission

City Manager Kovacs asked Commissioners if there were any topics that they would like further future discussion on.

Mayor Smith said she would place Phase II of Lakeshore Boulevard on that list, along with utility rate increases. She also requested a summary/update of the JCI project.

Commissioner Bonsall said he agreed on the Lakeshore and utility rate items. He also said he doesn't yet have a clear idea how the City will close the gap that remains in the budget.

Commissioner Davis said the budget presentation is clearly different than it has been in previous years, but she said that's not a bad thing and that she appreciates all the work being put in by Finance Director Mary Schlicht. She agreed with the topics mentioned by Mayor Smith, and said she would be curious to see how the budget has already been altered, once the deficit became clear.

Commissioner Hanley said she agrees on everything that has been mentioned. She mentioned the College Avenue project, in which a \$325,000 grant is being paired with \$1.8 million in City funds. City Manager Kovacs said that project is being reviewed presently.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill asked if there would be future conversations regarding the BLP. She discussed utility rate structures.

Commissioner Mayer discussed both Lakeshore Boulevard and College Avenue. He also said he would like to continue the previously mentioned concept of a road millage, as well as bond costs.

Commissioner Stonehouse said he is generally comfortable with the plan being presented. He said utility rates represent a difficult decision, and said that Lakeshore Boulevard represents a major commitment to the community and the City's grant partners and should be completed as presented. He said he would like to look at the concept of a road millage, which would be a longer-term solution.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs thanked the City Commission and said there will be additional budget meetings forthcoming.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

If you require assistance to participate in any meeting, program or activity offered by the City of Marquette, please provide advanced notice to City of Marquette ADA Coordinator Eric Stemen at 906-225-8978 or via email at estemen@marquettemi.gov.

City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855

Agenda Date: 8/25/2021

Video (Admin Use Only)
Special Budget Meeting

BACKGROUND:

Special Budget Meeting

ALTERNATIVES:

As determined by the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

No Attachments Available

Agenda Date: 8/25/2021

Consent Agenda

Approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 regular Commission meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

As determined by the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

No Attachments Available

Agenda Date: 8/25/2021

New Business
Budget Overview

ALTERNATIVES:

As determined by the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

No Attachments Available